

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth hereinbelow.

1-12. (cancelled)

13. **(currently amended)** ~~The method of Claim 11, wherein~~
A method for treating metal working fluid, comprising the steps of:
transferring the metal-working fluid into a heating vessel;
heating the metal-working fluid in the heating vessel to maintain the metal-working
fluid at an elevated temperature during a heating period;
agitating and aerating the metal-working fluid during at least a portion of the
heating period;
transferring the metal-working fluid out of the heating vessel into a holding vessel
after the heating period; and
transferring the metal-working fluid out of the holding vessel,
wherein:
a bottom portion of the heating vessel is provided with air inlets and air flow
through the inlets and through the metal-working fluid agitates and aerates the
metal-working fluid, and
the air flow through the metal-working fluid flows out of the heating vessel through
a de-mister.
14. **(original)** The method of Claim 13, wherein the de-mister comprises a centrifuge
impactor.
15. **(currently amended)** ~~The method of Claim 11, wherein~~
A method for treating metal working fluid, comprising the steps of:
transferring the metal-working fluid into a heating vessel;
heating the metal-working fluid in the heating vessel to maintain the metal-working
fluid at an elevated temperature during a heating period;
agitating and aerating the metal-working fluid during at least a portion of the
heating period;
transferring the metal-working fluid out of the heating vessel into a holding vessel
after the heating period; and

transferring the metal-working fluid out of the holding vessel,

wherein:

a bottom portion of the heating vessel is provided with air inlets and air flow

through the inlets and through the metal-working fluid agitates and aerates the metal-working fluid, and

the air flow through the metal-working fluid flows out of the heating vessel through a filter.

16. **(original)** The method of Claim 15, wherein the filter comprises a charcoal filter.

17-25. **(cancelled)**

26. **(currently amended)** ~~The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of~~

A method for treating metal working fluid, comprising the steps of:

transferring the metal-working fluid into a heating vessel;

heating the metal-working fluid in the heating vessel to maintain the metal-working fluid at an elevated temperature during a heating period;

agitating and aerating the metal-working fluid during at least a portion of the heating period;

transferring the metal-working fluid out of the heating vessel into a holding vessel after the heating period;

transferring the metal-working fluid out of the holding vessel; and

reducing a concentration in the metal-working fluid of at least one metal by passing the metal-working fluid through an ion-exchange filter.

27. **(original)** The method of Claim 26, wherein one of the at least one metal is cobalt.

28. **(original)** The method of Claim 26, wherein the ion-exchange filter includes a sulfonated divinyl-benzene-cross-linked polystyrene ion-exchange resin.

29. **(original)** The method of Claim 26, wherein metal-working fluid from the holding vessel is recirculated through the ion-exchange filter.

30-55. **(cancelled)**